	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Notice of Allowability	09/836,524	DEMELLO ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Charlie C. Agwumezie	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *communication filed 04/17/2001.*

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-23.*

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

       Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date *5/8/01, 8/1/03, 11/21/05,*

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

Charlie Lion Agwumezie
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1, 7, 13 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-23 have been examined.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

        Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Jerome G. Schaefer on July 19, 2006.

        The Application has been amended as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of facilitating commerce over a

communications network comprising:

        generating data indicative of a retail web site;

        ~~contacted~~ contacting the retail web site from within a directory feature of an

integrated shopping service of a client computer, said integrated shopping service

comprising a content-rendering application, a retail shopping user interface, and the

directory feature, wherein a list of on-line retailers displayed by the directory feature

enables navigation to a retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly through the list and wherein the list of on-line retailers is selected by a user of said client computer;

generating a signature of said data using a private key;

providing said data and said signature to a plurality of computing devices;

providing to said plurality of computing devices a public key corresponding to said private key; and

providing to said plurality of computing devices a set of computer-executable instructions which performs acts comprising:

determining the authenticity of said data against said signature; and

displaying a link to said web site upon a determination that said data is authentic.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A system for using a computer network comprising:

a memory location which stores data and a signature received from a directory server, said data being indicative of a web site on a computer network, said signature being based on said data;

an authentication module which verifies the authenticity of data against said signature and provides an indication of whether said data is authentic;

and a shopping module which receives said indication and which conditionally displays a link to said web site according to said indication; and

a web browser for contacting said web site contacted from within a directory feature of an integrated shopping service of a client computer, said integrated shopping service comprising a content-rendering application, a retail shopping user interface and

a directory feature, wherein a list of on-line retailers displayed by the directory feature

enables navigation to a retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly through the list and

wherein the list of on-line retailers is selected by a user of said client computer.

13.   (Currently Amended)   A method of providing access to web sites

comprising:

creating a list of web sites;

contacting said web sites contacted using a web browser from within a directory

feature of an integrated shopping service of a client computer, said integrated shopping

service comprising a content-rendering application, a retail shopping user interface and

the directory feature, wherein a list of on-line retailers displayed by the directory feature

enables navigation to a retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly through the list and

wherein the list of on-line retailers is selected by a user of said client computer;

providing, to a plurality of computing devices, computer-executable instructions

which access said web sites; and

limiting access to said web sites by performing acts which include:

generating signatures for one or more of the web sites on said list using a key;

and

restricting access to said key;

wherein said computer-executable instructions include instructions which

authenticate said signatures and which deny access to a web site on said list whose

signature fails to authenticate.

21.   (Currently Amended)   A computer memory which stores a data structure

produced by acts comprising:

accessing a list which includes a plurality of web sites, each of said web sites

having a corresponding signature;

contacting each of said web sites contacted using a web browser from within a

directory feature of an integrated shopping service of a client computer, said integrated

shopping service comprising a content-rendering application, a retail shopping user

interface and the directory feature, wherein a list of on-line retailers displayed by the

directory feature enables navigation to a retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly

through the list and wherein the list of on-line retailers is selected by a user of said client

computer;

determining the authenticity of each web site on said list against its

corresponding signature;

including in said data structure a first set of said web sites which are determined

to be authentic against their respective signatures; and

excluding from said data structure a second set of said web sites which fail to

authenticate against their respective signatures.

3.   Claims 1-23 have been allowed as amended.

Reasons for Allowance

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent No. 6,331,865 to Sachs et al.

The instant application is directed to a method and system for providing an

electronic shopping service integrated into a software application, and for controlling the

set of web sites that are reachable from within the shopping service. Each web site is

represented by data which is signed by a private key, and the data together with this

signature is delivered to a plurality of computing devices that provide the shopping

service. Each of the computing devices has access to the public key that corresponds to

the private key, and uses the public key to verify the signature. The computing device

displays links to those web sites whose representative data validates against the

signature. The method thus comprising: generating data indicative of a retail web site;

contacting the retail web site from within a directory feature of an integrated shopping

service of a client computer, said integrated shopping service comprising a content-

rendering application, a retail shopping user interface, and the directory feature, wherein

a list of on-line retailers displayed by the directory feature enables navigation to a

retailer on the list of on-line retailers directly through the list and wherein the list of on-

line retailers is selected by a user of said client computer; generating a signature of said

data using a private key; providing said data and said signature to a plurality of

computing devices; providing to said plurality of computing devices a public key

corresponding to said private key; and providing to said plurality of computing devices a

set of computer-executable instructions which performs acts comprising: determining

the authenticity of said data against said signature; and displaying a link to said web site

upon a determination that said data is authentic.

Sachs et al teaches a method and system for portable electronic book operative

to request a digital content from a catalog of distinct digital contents and to receive and

display the requested digital content in readable form. An information services system is

in electrical communication with the portable electronic book performs authentication

and rendering of the requested digital content. An authentication server authenticates

the identity of the requesting portable electronic book. Authentication is performed

wherein the identity of the electronic book itself is authenticated. If the electronic book

fails to properly authenticate access to the network or the secondary virtual bookstore

will be denied and the user will be asked to call a customer support number.

Sachs et al however failed to disclose generating data indicative of website;

generating a signature of said data using a private key; providing said data and said

signature to a plurality of computing devices; providing to said plurality of computing

devices a public key corresponding to said private key; and providing to said plurality of

computing devices a set of computer-executable instructions which performs acts

comprising: determining the authenticity of said data against said signature; and

displaying a link to said web site upon a determination that said data is authentic.

In an effort to justify the reasons for allowance of the applicant claims and to further delineate the elements of the claims, applicant and examiner jointly agreed to the amended claims as recited in the independent claims above. Therefore the claims are allowable as amended over the closest prior arts of record as discussed above.

5.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7.   The prior arts made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants disclosure.

- Perkowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,979) discloses Method of and System For Finding and Serving Consumer Product Related Information Over the Internet Using Manufaurer Identification Numbers.

- Bari et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023059 A1) discloses Method and System for Secure Registration, Storage, Management and Linkage of Personal Authentication Credentials Data Over the Network.

- Novicov et al discloses Authentication For Information Exchange Over a Communication network.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300. [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"].

(571) 273-8300. [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].
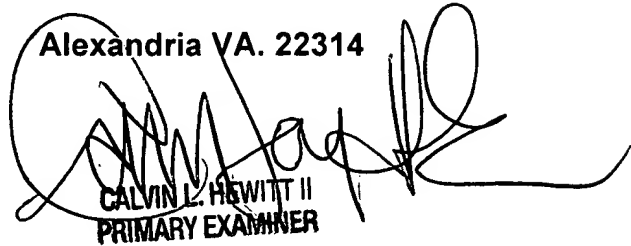
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Charlie Lion Agwumezie
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621
July 21, 2006

CALVIN L. HEWITT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER